

City of Auburn

Community Description

The City of Auburn is located in western Bay County, east of Midland. It is surrounded by Williams Township. Auburn largely serves as a bedroom community for people who work in the nearby cities of Midland, Bay City, and Saginaw. According to the 2000 Census, Auburn has a population of 2,011.

Administrative Structure

The City Commission is responsible for all **functions** of the City, including the City parks. As the administrative head of the City, the City Administrator carries out the policies that are made by the Commission and directs and coordinates the work of all City departments. It is the City Administrator's job to keep the Commission informed of the conditions and needs of the City and to make recommendations for action as the need arises. The City Administrator also prepares the

annual budget for Commission recommendation and upon its enactment sees that its provisions are upheld.

Maintenance activities for parks and recreation are implemented by the Auburn Department of Public Works and designated work is contracted with private service companies. One supervisor, two full time and two part time employees are currently employed in the DPW Department.

Programming, Volunteers, and Cooperative Relationships

The City of Auburn/Williams Township Recreation Board administers recreational activities. This is a joint 12 member recreation board with equal representation from both units of government, each having 6 members on the board. Five of the Auburn representatives on the board are at-large members appointed by the City Commission and the sixth member is appointed from the City Commission. Each unit provides \$8,000 a year for planning and implementation of recreational activities. The board currently provides organized baseball/softball activities, organized gun range programs, summer day-camp program and organized outings. The recreation board also provides recommendations for recreational facilities, maintenance and improvements to the City's administrative staff.

Volunteers are used for coaching, the gun range programs, and flower bed maintenance throughout the year. The last couple of years free band concerts in the park were organized by volunteers. Horseshoe tournaments that are held twice a year are organized by a local volunteer. They attract people from all over the state.

The Auburn Chamber of Commerce and the Auburn Jaycees own a 20-acre piece of property adjacent to the Auburn Community Park. They sponsor the annual Auburn Corn Festival which uses their property and the Community Park property. A new festival in 2008 is a week long music festival. For several years the Bay County Soil Conservation District has held its annual Fifth Grade Educational Tour at the City Park.

Budgets

The sources of funding for parks and recreation in Auburn are the city general fund, park rentals, and donations. The current and next year parks and recreation budgets are shown on the following page.

AUBURN PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGETS

	2007-2008	2008-2009
Operation & Maintenance	\$49,026	\$50,938
Programming (leagues, special events, etc.)	\$8,000	\$8,000
Capital Expenditures	0	0

Recreation Inventory

The planning consultant supplied inventory forms for each participating community to complete as part of the overall Bay County Recreation Plan. The inventory data as compiled from those forms is shown below.

AUBURN RECREATION INVENTORY

Park Type*	Auburn Community Park	Auburn Recreation Area	Auburn Shooting Range**
	Community Park	Neighborhood Park	Special Use Park
Acreage	20	4	
Accessibility*	4	4	
Service Area	Auburn /Williams Twp.	Auburn /Williams Twp.	Auburn /Williams Twp.
Bail Diamond	2		
Multi-use Path	1 mile		
Pavilion	3		
Picnic Area	yes		
Ice Skating	yes		
Horseshoes	12		
Sledding		Yes	
Archery/Gun Range			Yes
Pond/Observation Docks	yes		
Restrooms	yes		
Playfield (open space)	yes		

*See County inventory section for definitions of park type and accessibility.

** The Auburn Shooting Range is located north of the City of Auburn on the east side of 9-Mile Road south of W. Wheeler Road. See the Williams Township Map for exact location.

Goals and Objectives

The City of Auburn developed the following goals and objectives for parks and recreation in the community.

GOAL 1

Continue to improve and upgrade the City of Auburn's recreational and support facilities in order to offer parks and recreational activities the community can be proud of.

Objectives:

1. Retain and maintain the existing Auburn City Park and acquire new public lands to fulfill the recreational needs of the city and local community.
2. Provide multi-use recreational opportunities at park facilities.
3. Make both active and passive park facilities available to as many individuals as possible.
4. Ensure that improvements and upgrades to the Auburn City Park are handicap accessible.
5. Provide adequate maintenance of all City parks and recreational facilities.
6. Consider the long-term or on-going maintenance costs of all future park improvements to City recreational facilities prior to making such improvements.
7. Utilize volunteers to assist with special events and maintenance opportunities.

GOAL 2

Promote coordination of recreational facilities, programs and activities with other recreation providers to avoid duplication and use City resources wisely.

Objectives:

1. Provide facilities that complement those of Bay County, Williams Township, the school district and other groups.
2. Cooperate and contribute to community wide recreation projects.
3. Seek active participation in the planning of recreation facilities **and/or** opportunities that affect the City and Williams Township residents.
4. Initiate interaction and cooperation with the school system.
 - Develop and formalize an agreement to jointly share and support mutually beneficial facilities.

Work with the schools to improve the recreational facilities available to the community at the school sites, particularly elementary schools.

5. Engage in joint purchasing with other governmental units when feasible with the goal of saving tax dollars.

GOAL 3

Provide quality recreational opportunities to improve health and fitness with extra emphasis placed on organized youth activities.

Objectives:

1. Provide organized programs and activities for a variety of ages with an emphasis on youth programs through the Auburn-Williams Recreation Association
2. Continue to partner with existing recreational partners to provide recreation programs, events, and leagues.

GOAL 4

Develop a recreation system that will be responsive to, and effective in, meeting the present and future needs of residents.

Objectives:

1. Update the recreation plan as needed and entirely review the plan every five years.
2. Develop an interactive web site to communicate with residents regarding park and recreation opportunities.
3. Explore marketing services and sponsoring special events.
4. Use the City newsletter to identify what is happening, what's available, who to talk to, and to seek community input.
5. Use local newspaper to highlight recreation news whenever possible.

GOAL 5

Provide access trails and multi-use recreational paths.

Objectives:

1. Cooperate and participate in intergovernmental efforts to establish a non-motorized **greenway** and trail system connecting Midland County to Bay County.
2. Coordinate possible routes, methods, and **funding** to connect non-motorized **greenway** and trail systems in Bay and Midland Counties to the Auburn City Park.
3. Identify possible non-motorized routes, methods, and **funding** to connect Auburn City Park with the Williams Township Park.

GOAL 6

Develop methods to meet future recreational needs in the City.

Objectives:

1. Pursue a variety of possible funding sources, including state and federal grant programs.
2. Explore a means for evaluating and accepting private donations of land, time and monies.
3. Budget funds for a recreational capital improvement program each year to improve recreational facilities and eliminate deficiencies.

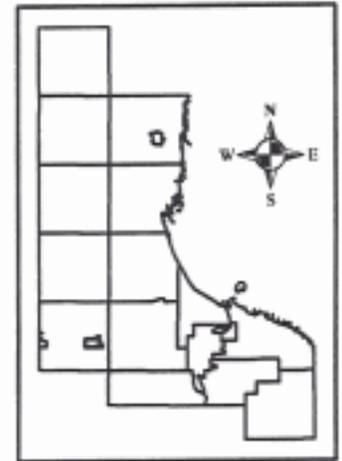
Action Plan

1. Develop a **basketball/in-line** skating area with utilization of the facility in the winter as an ice rink. The objective of this project would be to design and construct a multi-purpose recreational facility to meet the recreational needs of the residents within the Auburn area. The rink would provide a safe place for young children to rollerblade. Although the Auburn area has two basketball courts within close proximity, these facilities are heavily used.
2. Update the playground equipment near the ball diamonds with handicap accessible equipment. This will ensure a safe place for children to play.
3. Install a fountain in the City park pond for not only aesthetic purposes but also for beneficial aeration. This **project** would enhance the existing fishing docks.
4. Due to the heavy use of the park, a second pavilion with picnic tables, grills and electricity was another facility identified as needed within the park. This will provide a sheltered area for families to use.
5. Installation of hockey boards is identified as the next step for improving the **basketball/rollerblade** ice rink facility.

Feb 10, 2009

Auburn

Park & Trail Locations



Legend

- | | | |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Parks | Existing Trails | Railroad |
| Golf Courses | Local Roads | Streams & Drains |
| Schools | State Trunklines | Township City Boundaries |
| | Major Roads | Saginaw Bay |

Map Produced By
Bay County Department of Environmental Affairs &
Community Development - GIS Program
Data Source - Bay County GIS State of Michigan CGI

DISCLAIMER: This map is intended for general planning purposes only. The information has not been verified and was compiled from very generalized information and therefore SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR ANY SITE SPECIFIC PURPOSES. Bay County shall not be responsible for any direct or consequential damage resulting from any use of this information.

